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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/588,867

05/11/2007

Stephen Daryl Barnes

WAT-PT007

4086

3624 7590 03/25/2009

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EXAMINER

TILLERY, RASHAWN N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2174

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/25/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/588,867	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BARNES, STEPHEN DARYL	
	<b>Examiner</b> RASHAWN TILLERY	<b>Art Unit</b> 2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 12/19/2008.
2. Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are independent claims. In the instant Amendment, claim 1 was amended and claim 9 was added. This action is made Final.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Microsoft Outlook features of Microsoft Office Outlook 2003 ("MO").

Regarding claim 1, MO discloses a COMM Addin for Microsoft outlook, said COMM Addin adding a plurality of menu buttons (see fig 1 where menu buttons "new," "reply," "forward," etc. are shown) to at least one page of Microsoft outlook viewable on a users screen, said menu buttons operable by said user, such that when said user receives a mail item (see fig 1 where high-lighted received message "RE: 10/581,460-Posted" is shown) in said users inbox operation of one said button enables said user to

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reply to the mail item, forward the mail item (see fig 2 where user is capable of “forwarding” received message “460”), or create a new item entry and said mail item is respectively copied to said reply, forwarded message or new item entry (see fig 3 where after user forwards the message “460,” it automatically is sent to “Sent Items”), and further wherein said mail item is removed from said inbox (see fig 4 where user is capable of “moving” the message “460” by right-clicking- using a mouse- the highlighted message and left-clicking on “Move to Folder;” fig 5 shows where user is permitted to choose which folder the message “460” is to be moved- for illustrative purposes, the “Outbox” was chosen; fig 6 shows where the message “460” is placed in the “Outbox” consequently, removing it from the inbox).

Regarding claim 2, MO discloses a COMM Addin as claimed in claim 1 wherein said new item includes a calendar entry, a note, a task, a project or a contact (see claim 1 where a “note” is shown).

Regarding claim 3, MO discloses a COMM Addin as claimed in claim 1 wherein said buttons are operable from a home page of said Microsoft outlook (see fig 1 where the “Inbox- Microsoft Outlook” home page is shown).

Regarding claim 4, MO discloses a COMM Addin as claimed in claim 1 wherein said button further automatically re-labels said reply, forwarded message or new item entry (see fig 2 where after user clicks the forward button, a new window “FW: 10/581,460-Posted- Message” is generated).

Claims 5-8 are similar in scope to claims 1-4, respectively, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 9 is similar in scope to claim 1 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed 12/19/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued the prior art reference fails to disclose reducing tasks in Outlook that require multiple button or menu selections to a single selection operation.

Examiner notes that Applicant's claim language is written broadly enough to where the prior art reference could be interpreted to read on it. For instance, applicant's claim language does not require a single button operation to automatically perform each task (“(1)”, “(2)” and “(3)” in claim 9) sequentially. As the claims are currently written, one button out of the plurality of menu buttons could be used to enable user to perform one respective task (that is, user can select a “Reply” button to perform task “(1),” select a “Copy” button to perform task “(2),” and select a “Remove” button to perform task “(3)”).

### ***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RASHAWN TILLERY whose telephone number is 571-272-6480. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on 571-272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/RASHAWN TILLERY/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2174

/Adam L Basehoar/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2178